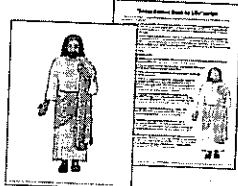
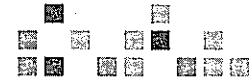


Jesus Comes Back to Life

Matthew 27:27-56; 28:1-10

Each child has a different understanding of death. Some children have lost pets, some have lost grandparents or other family members, and some may never have experienced the death of a loved one. This lesson will help kids understand that Jesus isn't dead. He's alive! Celebrate that Jesus died and took our sins away with him and that he came back to life. Because Jesus is alive, we can live with him forever!

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing or listen to praises for God.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Signs of Love Learn the Key Verse in sign language.	Bible	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what an empty egg has to do with the Bible.	Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, empty plastic Easter egg, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	Put the empty plastic Easter egg inside the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time: Jesus Defeats Death Hear about Jesus' death and resurrection.	Bible, table, chair, cross, plastic egg from Theo's News, tape Teacher Pack: "Jesus Comes Back to Life" script, "Jesus" poster 	Set a cross on one side of the room. On another side of the room, make a "tomb" and "stone" by placing a chair in front of a table. Tape the "Jesus" poster onto a wall.



► Bible Point


Jesus is alive.

Key Verse

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will celebrate and tell the message that Jesus is alive!

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	Center 1: Roll Away the Stone Work in pairs, and pretend to roll the stone away from the tomb entrance as they tell what they learned in the Bible.	My Bible Playground, 2 gingersnaps (or other round cookies that are about two inches in diameter) with a slice of banana in between per child, antibacterial gel (optional), washable markers	Remove the Lesson 8 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	Center 2: Celebration Time Celebrate the fact Jesus is alive using party supplies.	assorted party favors, tape Teacher Pack: "Jesus Has Come Back to Life!" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)	
	Center 3: "Pass It On" Tag Play a game of Tag, and tell each other Jesus is alive.		
	Center 4: Stone Reminders Decorate paper plate "stones," and remember what the Bible tells us.	1 paper plate per child, stone-colored washable paint in bowls, scrap paper	
5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i>	Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	Jesus Is Alive Prayer Say a prayer to remember that the tomb was empty and that Jesus is alive.	plastic egg	
	Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		



Matthew 27:27-56; 28:1-10

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Last week's lesson focused on the climax of Jesus' ministry. But just a few days later, everything had gone wrong—to human eyes. After betraying his Lord to the Jewish authorities who were out to get Jesus, Judas hanged himself in remorse. As Jesus had predicted, three times Peter denied even knowing Jesus.

And then Jesus was tried, mocked, flogged almost to death, and forced to carry his own cross toward the site of his crucifixion (John 19:17). At Golgotha, Jesus was nailed to a cross to die as a common criminal between two thieves. A sign was placed above his head that mocked his declaration that he was King.

What happened at the moment of Jesus' death confirmed who he really was (Matthew 27:50-56). The splitting of the curtain that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place in the Temple had deep significance. The High Priest entered into the Most Holy Place only once a year to offer sacrifices for the people's sins (Hebrews 9:7)—the only time he could enter into God's presence. In taking our sins upon himself and dying for those sins, Jesus opened the way for us to have a direct relationship with God (Hebrews 10:19-20).

The first people to see that empty tomb were the women closest to Jesus. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James arose early to anoint Jesus' body with spices, a common burial practice.

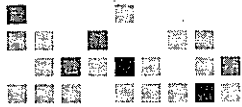
What Jesus did in his death on the cross—offering forgiveness for our sins—was an amazing and powerful demonstration of God’s love. But what Jesus did on the first Easter morning was even more

astounding and perhaps more significant. Jesus' resurrection is at the core of our faith.

Jesus' resurrection sealed our eternal life. Because Jesus went to death and back for us, God will forgive our sins and we can live forever in relationship with Jesus. Thank you, Jesus, for your incredible victory!

When was the last time you dealt with a difficult situation or felt depressed? Remind yourself of Jesus' resurrection and gift of eternal life. How could reflecting on Jesus have put that situation in perspective and helped you deal with it? Make a prayer commitment to keep exploring Jesus' resurrection, and discover how it still changes you. You can write your prayer here.

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Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "We're So Glad"
(track 3), "God So
Loved the World"
(John 3:16) (track 6)



GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song



Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in singing "We're So Glad" (track 3 on the CD) to the tune of "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." Encourage the kids to join you in doing the motions and singing.



We're so glad you came to our class (*hug a friend*)
Where we sing and learn and pray. (*fold hands in prayer*)
We're so glad you came to our class; (*hug another friend*)
We praise Jesus every day. (*wave hands overhead*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: We're going to hear some wonderful news today. ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!** As we sing our next song, let's celebrate this good news by giving high fives to each other.

Play "God So Loved the World" (John 3:16) (track 6 on the CD), and encourage kids to sing as they follow the motions.

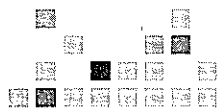


I believe in God, (*touch forehead*)
'Cause what he says is true.
I believe that Jesus died
To save me and save you. (*point to self, then others*)

I believe in God (*touch forehead*)
And all that he came to do.
I believe that Jesus died,
Because he loved both me and you. (*point to self, then others*)

(Chorus) (*hug themselves during the chorus*)
For God so loved the world
He gave his one and only Son,
That whoever believes in him
Shall not perish.





For God so loved the world (*hold arms out like "the world"*)
 He gave his one and only Son (*hold up one finger*)
 That whoever believes in him (*touch forehead*)
 Will have eternal life. (*point to heaven*)

(Repeat from the beginning; repeat chorus.)

"God So Loved the World" (John 3:16) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: I'm so glad you came today! We're going to learn that ► JESUS IS ALIVE.

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Signs of Love

What You'll Do

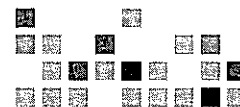
Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Galatians 2:20, and show children the words.

Say: Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). Let's say our Key Verse together. Lead the children in repeating the simplified version of the Key Verse with you: Jesus loved me and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20).

Say: We all have people we love, and we do nice things for those people. Jesus loves us so much that he did the most wonderful thing of all. Jesus died for us, but he didn't stay dead; ► JESUS IS ALIVE and in heaven. Everyone who believes in him can live forever in heaven with him. Let's go around the circle and each repeat the Key Verse— Jesus loved me and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20). After you say it, give yourself a big hug.

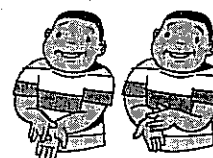
It feels good to think about Jesus' awesome love. Let's learn our Key Verse by using sign language. Sign language is a way of talking by using our hands, not our voices.

Jesus (*touch right middle finger to left palm; then touch left middle finger to right palm*)
loved (*make fists and cross arms over chest*)
me (*point with index finger to chest*)
and gave (*form O's with hands near body; then open hands and move them outward as if giving a gift*)



Signs of Love Supplies

Bible



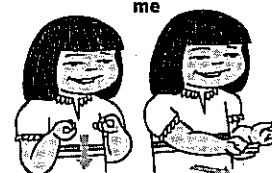
Jesus



loved



me



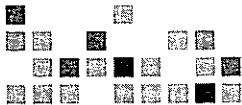
and gave



himself for



me



Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box
will do)

Theo puppet
empty plastic Easter
egg

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 2)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Put the empty plastic
Easter egg inside the
Surprise Box, and hide
the box where it's easily
accessible.

himself for (hold right thumb up)
me. (point with index finger to the center of chest)

Say: Jesus loves each of us so much that he gave himself for us. We can use the sign language we learned to tell others about Jesus, or we can talk to others about Jesus. Let's tell everyone about Jesus' awesome love!



BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle, and begin "Here, Theo" (track 2 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you've dug up about the Bible today.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.

Teacher: Let's look inside to see what Theo dug up for us today.

(Ask a willing child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the empty plastic egg around the circle. Tell kids not to open the egg as they pass it around. Encourage kids to shake it, tap it, and guess what's in it. Give children time to guess what about they might learn in the Bible today.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide this egg in the Surprise Box?

Theo: Sometimes people use these eggs when they celebrate Easter, and usually the eggs have something inside.

Teacher: What do you think is in this egg?

(Let the children guess; then open the egg and show the kids that it's empty.)

Teacher: Hmm. I wonder where the candy is. Usually the eggs have candy inside. I'm surprised to see that it's empty!

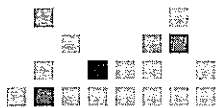
Theo: In the Bible today, you'll learn about two women who were surprised to find something else that was empty.

Teacher: Friends, let's listen to the Bible and find out what happens!

Theo: Have fun, boys and girls!

Teacher: Say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.



Bible Time: Jesus Defeats Death

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Matthew 27, and show the children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **The Bible tells us that ► JESUS IS ALIVE!** Have children repeat the Bible Point after you. **Jesus came to earth to tell people about God. Some leaders didn't believe that Jesus was God's Son, so the mean people called Jesus names and beat him for no reason.**

Jesus is God's Son, and he wants the world to know about God's love. Jesus was hurting as the mean people led him to the cross. Let's pretend we're hurt and we're walking with Jesus to the cross.

Have the children hold on to their knees as if they're injured as they walk to the cross you previously set up. Then follow along with the "Jesus Comes Back to Life," script and lead kids in the actions.




When you finish the script, gather the kids in a circle. Bring out the empty Easter egg that you used in Theo's News. Hold the egg so kids can see that it's empty.

Say: **The women were so excited to find out that Jesus was alive. They wanted to tell everyone they knew! They were so happy that they wanted to celebrate; they told everyone the good news and celebrated that ► JESUS IS ALIVE!**

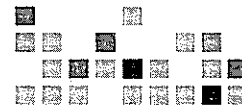
Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

-  What surprised you about what happened to Jesus?
-  How do we know Jesus is alive?
-  How can we help others know that Jesus is alive?

Say: **The women were so sad when Jesus died. But their sadness turned to surprise and joy when they saw that the tomb was empty! The angel told them that ► JESUS IS ALIVE! Then the women saw Jesus, and Jesus spoke to them. Jesus wanted the women to tell everyone that he is alive! Let's tell everyone this good news!**



Bible Time: Jesus Defeats Death Supplies

Bible
table
chair
cross
plastic egg from Theo's News
tape

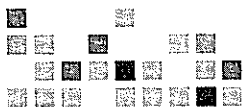
Teacher Pack

"Jesus Comes Back to Life" script
"Jesus" poster

Bible Time: Jesus Defeats Death Easy Prep

Set a cross on one side of the room. On another side of the room, make a "tomb" and "stone" by placing a chair in front of a table. Tape the "Jesus" poster onto a wall.





4

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

CENTER 1:

Roll Away the Stone

Center 1: Roll Away the Stone Supplies

My Bible Playground
2 gingersnaps (or other
round cookies that are
about two inches in
diameter) with a slice
of banana in between
per child
antibacterial gel
(optional)
washable markers

ALLERGY ALERT

Center 1: Roll Away the Stone Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 8
pages from each My
Bible Playground student
book.

What You'll Do

Have the children clean their hands, and set out gingersnap-banana sandwiches.

Distribute the Lesson 8 pages from My Bible Playground, and have kids write their names on their papers. Have the children form pairs, and give each child a cookie sandwich.

Say: **Take turns telling your partners what you learned from the Bible today using your snack.** Have children each cover the tomb opening with a cookie as they tell about Jesus being buried in the tomb and then roll the cookie to the side as they tell about the earthquake, the angel, and the good news that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!** Thank God for the treats. Then let kids eat the cookies and celebrate that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!**

Talk With Kids

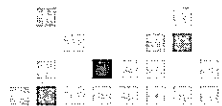
Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you had something to share and you couldn't wait to tell about it.
- You just used a cookie to tell about Jesus. What else can you use to tell others about Jesus coming back to life?

Say: **When the women went to the tomb, they felt an earthquake. Then the angel rolled the stone away from the tomb and said that ► JESUS IS ALIVE!** When the women went to tell Jesus' friends, Jesus met them along the way and told them not to be afraid, but to tell people about him. What good news!





CENTER 2:

Celebration Time




What You'll Do

Say: Sometimes when we want to celebrate, we have a party. We blow up balloons and hang streamers and play music. Show kids the party favors you brought. Let's have a party right now to celebrate that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!** Encourage kids to interact with the party favors that you brought. Then have each child tape one party favor to the poster. After the kids have celebrated for a few minutes, bring them back to the poster.

Say: Let's hang up our poster as a reminder that we can always celebrate that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!** Hang the poster up somewhere in your room. We can celebrate and be happy that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!**

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

-  What things do people celebrate?
-  Why is Jesus being alive a good reason to celebrate?
-  How can we celebrate that Jesus is alive with our families?

Say: We have a great reason to celebrate— ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!** We can always be happy knowing that Jesus didn't stay in the tomb.



CENTER 3:

"Pass It On" Tag

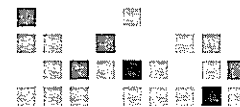
What You'll Do

Say: Discovering that Jesus was alive on Easter morning was a big surprise for Jesus' friends. Let's play a game to remember how excited they were.

Tell children to find places to stand around the room, away from others. Turn off the lights and have everyone get very quiet. Whisper ► **"JESUS IS ALIVE!"** to a child.

Say: The game will begin when I turn the lights on. The child who heard my message will tag another child and tell him or her the same message. Then those two children will hold hands and tag another child and say the message. When you're tagged, join hands with the group and continue to tag others. Tell the message to the children you tag and have them hold hands with the other messengers.

Turn on the lights to begin the game. Help children remember to say the Bible Point as they play. When all the children have been tagged and are holding hands, have the group sit on the floor and shout the message: ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!**



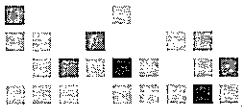
Center 2: Celebration Time Supplies

assorted party favors
tape

Teacher Pack

"Jesus Has Come Back to Life!" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)





Center 4: Stone Reminders Supplies

1 paper plate per child
stone-colored washable
paint in bowls
scrap paper

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was this game like for you?
- What's it like when we tell others that ► JESUS IS ALIVE?
- In what ways is this game like how we can tell others that ► JESUS IS ALIVE?

Say: People who loved Jesus were full of joy when they learned he was alive. They wanted to share their news with everyone! We love Jesus, too, and we feel full of joy and excitement as we celebrate Easter. We, too, can tell others the message that ► JESUS IS ALIVE!

CENTER 4:

Stone Reminders

What You'll Do

Gather the children in a craft area and give each child a paper plate.

Say: Let's talk about the large stone that was put in front of the tomb. Today, you'll make a miniature stone to remind you that the stone in front of Jesus' grave was rolled away and that ► JESUS IS ALIVE. Have kids crumple the scrap papers individually and dip them into the paint. Once you have paint on your paper, use it like a stamp on your paper plate to make it look like the stone. As the children decorate their stones, have them talk about things they learned in the Bible today.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How do you think that big stone at Jesus' tomb got moved?
- What are some big things or problems you want God to move for you?

Say: The women were sad at the beginning, but they were happy at the end! When the angel rolled the stone away, the women could see that the tomb was empty. God brought Jesus back to life! What a great thing that ► JESUS IS ALIVE!



**5 LASTING
IMPRESSIONS**

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up the centers, bring everyone back to a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids

Say: Today we learned that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!** I'd like each of you to choose a way that you can tell the message this week that Jesus is alive.

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

- Call and tell someone that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!**
- Put on a play with a friend or your siblings showing that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE.**
- Draw a picture of the empty tomb and the angel; then give your picture to someone you love.

Have kids each whisper in your ear to tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Playground page. Make sure you choose a challenge as well and tell kids which challenge you chose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them a new opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as theirs!

Jesus Is Alive Prayer

What You'll Do

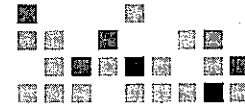
Say the following prayer, and encourage kids to respond at the appropriate times.

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus who died for our sins.

Thank you that Jesus is no longer in the tomb. (Pass the egg around, and have the children look inside and say, "It's empty!") Thank you for the good news that ► **JESUS IS ALIVE!** (Encourage each child to say, ► "JESUS IS ALIVE!")

In Jesus' name, amen.

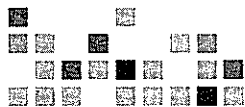
**Daily Challenges
Supplies**

My Bible Playground

**Jesus Is Alive Prayer
Supplies**

plastic egg





Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

